

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 012841

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, PFOR, EI

SUBJECT: POSSIBLE PROPOSAL FOR JOINT ACTION AGAINST
FUND-RAISING

REF: DUBLIN 80

1. DEPT. APPRECIATES PROMPT REPORT REFTEL, AND WHOLE-HEARTEDLY AGREES WITH AMBASSADOR CURLEY'S VIEWS SET FORTH THEREIN. WE BELIEVE RECENT PROMINENT COVERAGE OF FUND-RAISING ACTIVITIES, HIGHLIGHTING SUSPECTED LINK BETWEEN CERTAIN ORGANIZATIONS' FUND-RAISING AND ILLEGAL PURCHASES OF WEAPONS FOR USE IN NORTHERN IRELAND, HAS PUT THESE ORGANIZATIONS ON DEFENSIVE. NOVEMBER 19 WASHINGTON STAR AND DECEMBER 16 NEW YORK TIMES ARTICLES ESPECIALLY EFFECTIVE IN THAT REGARD, AND MAY SERVE TO STOP FUNDS COMING FROM GOOD-FAITH CONTRIBUTORS. THOSE WHO NOT RPT NOT DETERRED BY SUSPICIONS THAT FUNDS MISUSED WOULD NOT RPT NOT BE SWAYED BY ANY SUCH JOINT GOI-USG STATEMENT CONDEMNING FUND-RAISING.

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2. MOST IMPORTANT IS AMBASSADOR'S POINT THAT SUCH A

STATEMENT WOULD BE DISTORTED BY ORGANIZATIONS AND USED AS EVIDENCE THAT USG HAS ABANDONED LONG-STANDING POLICY OF

NON-INVOLVEMENT IN NORTHERN IRELAND SITUATION. INDEED, WE BELIEVE THEY WOULD MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO PUBLICIZE THIS POINT OF VIEW AND CHARGE THAT STATEMENT WAS PROMPTED BY PRESSURES FROM BRITISH GOVERNMENT IN WAKE OF PRIME MINISTER WILSON'S DECEMBER 17 ADDRESS TO ASSOCIATION OF AMERICAN CORRESPONDENTS IN LONDON.

3. MOREOVER, ORGANIZATIONS WOULD LIKELY CHARGE THAT SUCH A STATEMENT IS UNFOUNDED AND CONSTITUTES MALICIOUS SLANDER OF CHARITABLE GROUPS DULY REGISTERED UNDER US LAWS AND REGULATIONS. FACT IS THAT LINK BETWEEN FUND-RAISING AND ILLEGAL WEAPONS PURCHASES, THOUGH MUCH DISCUSSED, HAS NOT RPT NOT YET BEEN PROVEN. NEW YORK TIMES ARTICLE QUOTES JUSTICE DEPARTMENT OFFICIAL BRANDON ALVEY AS STATING. QUOTE: WHEN THEY SAY MONEY IS GOING TO WIDOWS AND CHILDREN WE CAN'T PROVE THAT IT DOESN'T. END QUOTE.

4. IF FONMIN FITZGERALD RAISES QUESTION OF JOINT STATEMENT WITH YOU, SUGGEST YOU DRAW ON FOREGOING IN EFFORT TO FORESTALL ANY PROPOSAL. (FYI OUR JUDGMENT IS THAT SUCH A STATEMENT WOULD BE COUNTER-PRODUCTIVE. END FYI) AT SAME TIME, YOU SHOULD STRESS FIRM USG INTENT TO ACT VIGOROUSLY WHENEVER WE HAVE EVIDENCE THAT PERSONS IN US ARE ILLEGALLY INVOLVED IN AFFAIRS OF NORTHERN IRELAND. OUR ACTIONS IN A NUMBER OF GUN-RUNNING CASES DEMONSTRATE THIS RESOLVE. YOU SHOULD ADD THAT WHEREVER POSSIBLE WE STAND READY TO COOPERATE FULLY WITH GOI IN ENDING SUCH ILLEGAL INVOLVEMENT. KISSINGER

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